



CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

NOVEMBER 1978 30

Bird Atlas News

President: Mrs R. Mills.

Gen Sec : Mr M. Winterbottom

Min Sec : Mrs B. Singleton.

Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove.

Newsletter Ed: Mr E. Perkins.

General Meetings are held at the Castlemaine Education Centre (SEC Building, Mostyn St) at 8 p.m. on the second Friday.

Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the Club's sessions.

THE BIRD ATLAS

The article from the Atlas Newsletter printed overleaf explains very well the purpose of the Atlas.

The aim is to record over all of Australia on an approximately 16 kilometre (10 minute)grid all of the Australian Birds and their nesting habits.

There are three kinds of records required

- (a) Historical Atlas - Records up to the end of 1976
- (b) Main Atlas - current records.
- (c) Unusual records.

HOW TO TAKE PART

"Any bird-watcher may help to collect data."

"To take part, you need not be familiar with all Australian birds, but you are expected to identify accurately all those you record. WHEN IN DOUBT, OMIT."

"We seek an even coverage of 1° blocks for the whole continent, but if possible, pinpoint your observations to sample $10'$ blocks in each 1° block." (See map in the centre pages).

"In a block, do your best to find and record all species present and all those breeding in it. Try to visit all of the habitats in the block e.g. stream, pond, forest, farmland etc., and where possible, do so at different times of the day and night and at different times of the year."

"Such an intense coverage of a grid block will not always be possible. Casual records made during a short visit to a block or while travelling, particularly in the more remote areas, are also valuable in ensuring that the Atlas truly represents the distribution of birds rather than observers."

"Observations should be entered in notebooks in the field and then transferred to the record sheets, (from which computer cards will be punched). In this way-

- (a) You can check any doubtful observations at leisure
- (b) You will retain in your field notebook a complete record, should you need to fill in an Atlas Unusual Record Report Form.
- (c) You will retain your own personal record of behaviour, population, habitat etc."

Unusual Records The Unusual Record form should be filled out for unusual records and sent in with the Record Sheet.

The Atlas and You

Supplement to RAOU Newsletter 30

The President of the RAOU, Dr. Stephen Davies, introduces the first Atlas Newsletter.

As an undergraduate I was bombarded by enthusiasts about the Botanical Society of the British Isles' latest craze. It was to plot the distribution of the plants of Great Britain using a gridded map. Not only that but it was all going to be done with a computer, then a new word. I doubt if I grasped much of the significance of the analysis plans, nor of the objects of the whole project, but I greatly enjoyed dashing out to odd bits of the British Isles, Galway Bay for example, and recording plants on the neat little cards provided free by the Society. The Atlas of the British Flora was published over ten years ago and has been a cornerstone of the steady planning of nature reserves in Britain, their management and the assessment of damage in such disasters as the Dutch Elm Disease, ever since. It was the first of the biological Atlases, prepared by a co-operative effort of an amateur society. It showed that the job could be done, and dozens of Atlases around the world—frogs, sea-weeds, birds, mosses—Atlases of a whole range of organisms in many different countries, followed.

Now our own ornithological Atlas is really under way. For years the Council, the Field Investigation Committee and a host of organisers and helpers in pilot atlas schemes have been saying 'do you think we can do it?', really meaning 'do you think that we shall get funds to do it?' Last year the Commonwealth Government showed us plainly that they wanted this sort of survey done and were willing to fund it. The RAOU got to work in a way that I think it is true to say, it had hardly dreamed possible before, and this year the Field Atlas Scheme has been launched, well supported by Commonwealth money and backed by a massive response to a publicity campaign over the Christmas holidays. Nearly a thousand enquiries were received following that publicity and there is little doubt that this kind of co-operative ornithology fills an empty niche in many people's enjoyment of the bush.

That is a very important point. Atlas work is enjoyable. It helps people to learn more about the beautiful birds around them in an enjoyable way. But that is not just why the Department of Environment, Housing and Community

Development is so keen to help us. They can see great usefulness in the work we are undertaking. It will give Australia a picture of the changing distribution of a group of organisms over the period of European settlement. There will then be a clear factual statement about what birds have declined and what have increased, which have spread and which have retracted their range. This information simply doesn't exist in a form that allows governments — local, state and federal — to assess the priorities of what to do first. What species is in most urgent need of protection, which one is doing well without help. It will also enable locality lists to be compared on a standard basis, so that areas particularly rich in bird species can have priority in reservation.

The Atlas of Australian Birds is the first biological atlas of Australia to be attempted in such detail. Many of the methods appropriate overseas will be in-

appropriate here, but many of the methods we work out will be applied widely to other groups of organisms in

Australia.

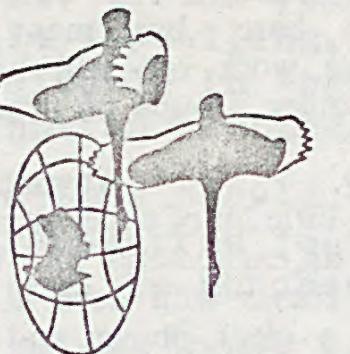
Anyone who has had even a little bit of experience atlassing will know its excitements and the enjoyment that comes with days in the bush that have a clear object and are contributing to new and fundamental knowledge. Anyone who has not yet tried atlassing is missing a treat. You need to know nothing to start and will be amazed that learning is such fun.

Let me just ask two things of you. Be patient with the overworked staff at Dryburgh Street who will answer your letter as soon as they possibly can. And do look for nests; the willie wagtail has still only been recorded breeding in six of Western Australia's grid blocks.

Stephen Davies,
President. RAOU.

BIRD ATLAS NESTING RECORDS FOR THE 1° BLOCK 32°30' S, 144°30' E

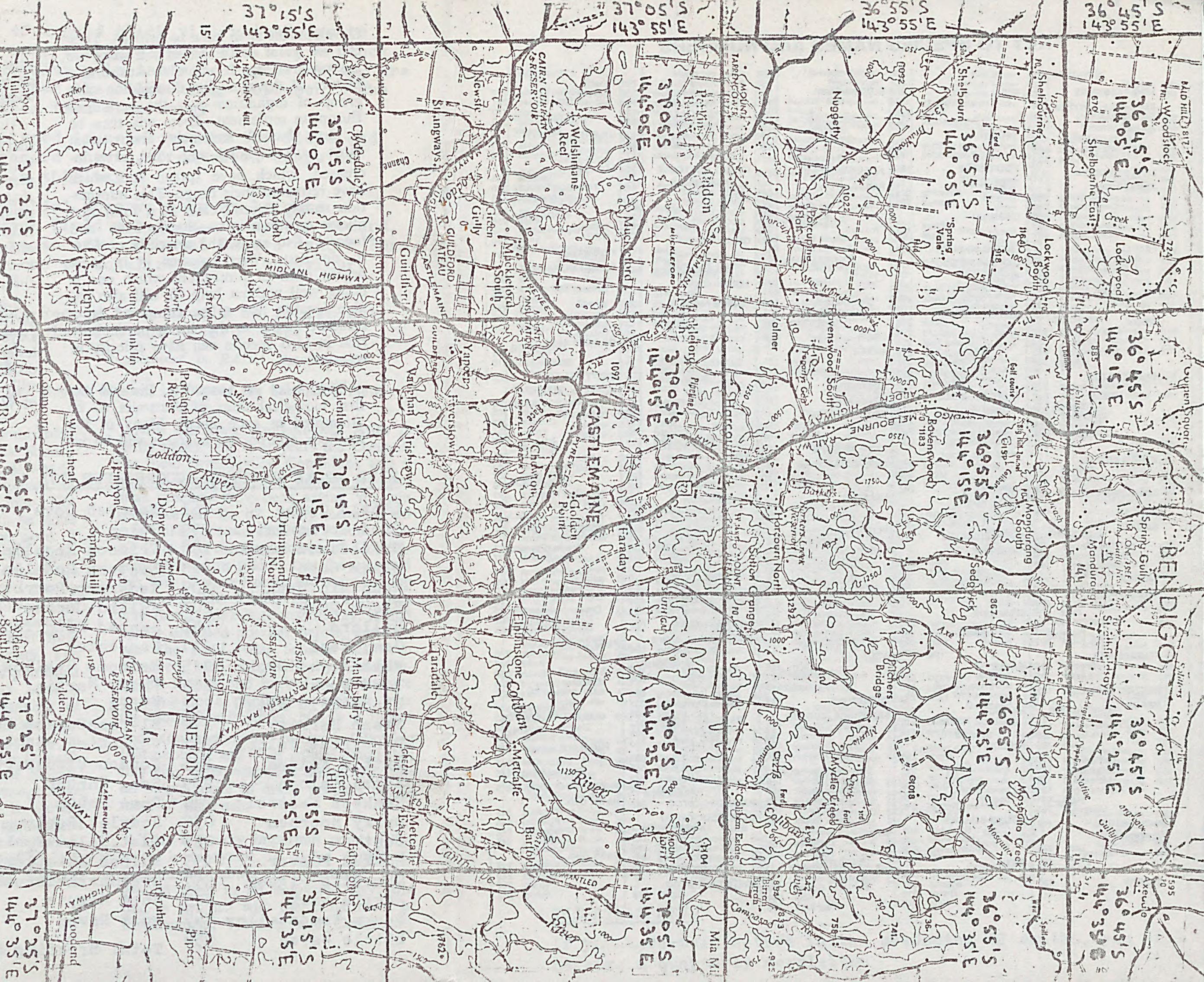
Little Grebe	061	Spotted Dove	989	Jacky Winter	377
Pied Cormorant	099	Galah	273	Restless Flycatcher	369
Whitefaced Heron	188	Crimson Rosella	282	Willie Wagtail	364
Black Swan	203	Eastern Rosella	288	Clam Reed Warbler	524
Mountain Duck	207	Red-rump Parrot	295	Superb Blue Wren	529
Black Duck	208	Pallid Cuckoo	337	White br Scrub Wren	488
Mallard	948	Sacred Kingfisher	326	Weebill	465
Grey Teal	211	Bee-eater	329	Brown Thornbill	475
White-eyed Duck	215	Welcome Swallow	357	Yellow-rump Thornbill	486
Wood Duck	202	Fairy Martin	360	Red Wattlebird	638
Black-Sld Kite	232	Pipit	647	Yellowface H/eater	614
Swamp Harrier	219	Bl-face Cuckoo Shr	424	Wh-plume H/eater	625
Peregrine Falcon	237	White Wing Triller	430	Wh-naped H/eater	578
Little Falcon	235	Common Blackbird	991	New Holland H/eater	631
Brown Falcon	239	Song Thrush	992	Spotted Pardalote	565
Nankeen Kestrel	240	Rose Robin	384	Striated Pardl	976
Dusky Moorhen	056	Scarlet Robin	380	Silvereye	574
Coot	059	East. Yellow Robin	392	Goldfinch	996
Masked Plover	133	Rufous Whistler	401	House Sparrow	995
Domestic Pigeon	957	Grey Shrike Thrush	408	Common Starling	999
Magpie Lark	415	Aust Magpie	705	Common Myna	998
Dusky Woodswallow	547	Aust Raven	930	Wh-wing Chough	693
Little Raven	954	Total Breeding Records:	67		



Note that the grid system is the same as that used for the Club records, but that the numbering system is different.

The numbers in each grid refer to the latitude (degrees and minutes south of the equator) and longitude (degrees and minutes east of Greenwich) of the centre of each block.
e.g. Chewton is $37^{\circ}05'S$ and $144^{\circ}15'E$.

THE CASTLEMAINE GRID



BHL



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KEY TO SPECIES NAMES AND NUMBERS

NON-PASSERINE		IBIS	Glossy	178	BUTTON-QUAIL	Red-backed	013	Sharp-tailed Spiper	163	Long-billed Corelia	272
EMU	001		White	179		Painted	014	Pectoral Spiper	978	Little Corella	271
CASSOWARY	002		Straw-necked	180		Chestnut-backed	015	Red-necked Stint	162	Pink	270
GREBE		SPOONBILL	Royal	181		Buff-breasted	016	Long-toed Stint	965	Sulphur-crested	269
Great Crested	060		Yellow-billed	182		Black-breasted	017	Curlew Spiper	161	ORIENTAL PARROT	
Hoary-headed	062					Little	018	Sanderling	166	Ectodus	275
Little	061	PIED GOOSE				Red-chested	019	Broad-billed Spiper	167	Red-cheeked	276
LITTLE PENGUIN	005	TREE-DUCK	Whistling	204	PLAINS-WANDERER	Land	046	ORIENT PRATCOLE	172	LORIKEET	
ALBATROSS			Plumed	205		Water	045	AUST PRATINCOLE	173	Rainbow	254
Wandering	086					Chestnut	047			Red-collared	255
Black-browed	088					Red-necked	048			Scaly-breasted	256
Grey-headed	090	SWAN	Black	203		Marsh Crake	050	SKUA		Varied	257
Yellow-nosed	089		Mute	906		Spotted Crake	049			Musk	258
White-capped	091	FRECKLED DUCK	Mountain Duck	214		Spotless Crake	051			Purple-crowned	259
PETREL		CAP BARRN GOOSE	Burdekin Duck	198		White-browedCrake	052	GULL		Little	260
South Giant-petrel	929	SHELDUCK				Bush-hen	053			FIG-PARROT	261
North Giant-petrel	937					Tasmn Nativehen	054			King	281
Cape	080	DABBING DUCK				Blacktail Nativehen	055	TERN		Red-winged	280
Great-winged	075					Dusky Moorhen	056			Superb	277
White-headed	077					Swamphen	058			Regent	278
Gould	078		Black	208	COOT		059			Princess	279
PRION			Mallard	948						Cockatiel	274
Medium-billed	941		Grey Teal	211	CRANE					GROUND PARROT	
Antarctic	084		Chestnut Teal	210		Brolga	177			Swamp	311
Slender-billed	942		Shoveller	212		Sarus	898			Budgerygah	310
Fairy	083		Garganey	209	BUSTARD		176		SWIFT PARROT	309	
SHEARWATER			Pink-eared	213	LOTUSBIRD		171		ROSELLA, ALLIES		
Flesh-footed	072	WHITE-EYED DUCK	215		STONE-CURLEW				Red-capped Parrot	290	
Wedge-tailed	069	PERCHING DUCK				Bush	174			Green	285
Sooty	070		Wood Duck	202		Beach	175			Crimson	282
Short-tailed	071		White Pygmygoose	200	PAINTED SNIPE		170			Yellow	284
Fluttering	068		Green Pygmygoose	201	OYSTERCATCHER					Adelaide	283
Hutton's	913	STIFF-TAIL DUCK	Blue-billed	216					NODDY		
Little	067		Musk	217	LAPWING				Common	288	
STORM-PÉTREL		OSPREY	241			Masked Plover	133			Pale-headed	286
Wilson's	063	SMALL KITE	Black-shouldered	232		Banded Plover	135			Northern	287
White-faced	065		Letter-winged	233	PLOVER, DOTTEREL					Western	289
COMMON DIVINGPET	085	CRESTED HAWK	234			Grey Plover	136			Mallee Ringneck	291
PELICAN	106	TRUE KITE	229			East Golden Plover	137			Port Lincoln Parrot	294
GANNET			Black	230		Red-kneed Dott	132			Red-rumped Parrot	295
Australian	104		Square-tailed	231		Hooded Dott	138			Many-colour Parrot	296
Red-foot Booby	103		Black-breasted	227		Mongolian Dott	139			Golden-shldr Parrot	300
Masked Booby	105		Brahminy	227		Double-banded Dott	140			Hooded Parrot	301
Brown Booby	102		Whistling	228		Large-billed Dott	141			Blue Bonnet	297
DARTER	101	GOSHAWK	Brown	221		Oriental Dott	142			Bourke's Parrot	304
CORMORANT			Sparrowhawk	222		Red-capped Dott	143			Blue-winged Parrot	306
Black-faced	098		Grey	220		Black-fronted Dott	144			Elegant Parrot	307
Pied	099		Red	223		Australian Dott	145			Rock Parrot	308
Little Pied	100	EAGLE	Brown	226	STILT	Pied	146			Orange-bell Parrot	305
Black	096		Wedge-tailed	224		Banded	147			Turquoise Parrot	302
Little Black	097		Little	225		Avocet	148			Scarlet-br Parrot	303
FRIGATEBIRD		HARRIER	Spotted	218	TURNSTONE		129	BRONZEWING, DOVE			
Greater	094		Swamp	219					Peaceful Dove	030	
Lesser	095								Diamond Dove	031	
REDTAIL TROPICBD	107	FALCON	Black	238					Bar-shoulder Dove	032	
HERON			Peregrine	237					Emerald Dove	033	
Great-billed	184		Little	235	SANDPIPER, CURLEW				Comm Bronzewing	034	
White-necked	189		Grey	236		Eastern Curlew	149			Brush Bronzewing	035
White-faced	188		Brown	239		Whimbrel	150			Flock Pigeon	036
Pied	190		Nankeen Kestrel	240		Little Whimbrel	151			Crested Pigeon	043
Cattle Egret	977	MOUND-BUILDER	Scrubfowl	006		Wood Spiper	154			Squatter Pigeon	039
Large Egret	187		Malleefowl	007		Grey-tailed Tattler	155			Partridge Pigeon	040
Little Egret	185		Brush-turkey	008		Wandering Tattler	156			White-quill Rock	037
Plumed Egret	186		Stubble	009		Common Spiper	157			Chsnt-quill Rock	038
Reef	191		Swamp	011		Greenshank	158			Spinifex Pigeon	042
Mangrove	193		Brown	010		Marsh Spiper	159			Wonga Pigeon	044
NIGHT-HERON	192		King	012		Terek Spiper	160	PALM COCKATOO	263		
BITTERN		QUAIL			SNipe			BLACK COCKATOO			
Little	195		Stubble	009					Red-tailed	264	
Black	196		Swamp	011					Glossy	265	
Brown	197		Brown	010					White-tailed	266	
JABIRU	183		King	012					Yellow-tailed	267	
									Gang-gang	268	
					GODWIT, SANDPIPER			WHITE COCKATOO			
						Black-tailed Godwit	152			Galah	273
						Bar-tailed Godwit	153				
						Knot	164				
						Great Knot	165				

FROGMOUTH	Mangrove Robin	388	Lavender-flanked	862	Bell Miner	633	SPARROW	
	Tawny	313	Red-winged	538	Noisy Miner	634	House	
	Papuan	316	White-winged	535	Yellow-thr Miner	635	Tree	
	Marbled	314	Red-backed	541	Black-eared Miner	967	995	
OWLET-NIGHTJAR	Pale-yellow Robin	396	Rufscrwn Emuwrn	528	Macleay's	615	AUSTRALIAN FINCH	
NIGHTJAR	White-faced Robin	397	Southn Emuwrn	526	Tawny-breasted	629	Red-brow Firetail	
	White-throated	330	Black Grasswrn	518	Lewin's	605	Beautiful Firetail	
	Spotted	331	White-thr Grasswrn	516	Yellow-spotted	606	Red-eared Firetail	
	Large-tailed	332	Carpntrn Grasswrn	517	Graceful	612	Painted Firetail	
GREY SWIFTLET	Shrike-tit	416	Striated Grasswrn	513	White-lined	607	Diamond Firetail	
SPINE-TAIL SWIFT	Olive Whstlr	405	Eyrean Grasswrn	515	Yellow-faced	614	Star	
FORK-TAIL SWIFT	Red-lored Whstlr	402	Grey Grasswrn	871	Bridled	611	Crimson	
KINGFISHER	Gilbert's Whstlr	403	Thick-bl Grasswrn	512	Singing	608	Zebra	
	Golden Whstlr	398	Dusky Grasswrn	511	Varied	609	Double-barred	
	Mang Gold Whstlr	400	BRISTLEBIRD		Mangrove	610	Masked	
	Grey Whstlr	406	Eastern	519	White-gaped	628	Long-tailed	
	Rufous Whstlr	401	Western	520	Yellow	626	Black-throated	
	White-brst Whstlr	404	Rufous	521	White-eared	617	Plum-headed	
TREE KINGFISHER	Rufous Shrthrush	413	AUST WARBLER		Yellow-throated	616	Pictorella Mannkn	
	Bower's Shrthrush	414	Pilotbird	506	Yellow-tufted	619	Chsnbrs Mannkn	
	Sandstone Shrthrush	411	Rock Warbler	505	Purple-gaped	620	Yllwrump Mannkn	
	Grey Shrthrush	408	Aust Fernwren	496	Grey-headed	621	Nutmeg Mannkn	
	Crested Bellbird	419	Atherton Scrbwrn	946	Yellow-plumed	622	Blue-faced	
BEE-EATER	Yellow-ft Flyctchr	395	Largebill Scrubwrn	494	Grey-fronted	623	Gouldian	
DOLLARBIRD	Lemon-br Flyctchr	379	Yellow-thr Scrubwrn	493	Fuscous	613	STARLING	
	Brown-tl Flyctchr	378	Tropical Scrubwrn	490	Yellow-tinted	624	Metallic	
	Jacky Winter	377	White-br Scrubwrn	488	White-plumed	625	Common	
	Scrubtit	487	MONARCH, FANTAIL		Black-chinned	580	Common Myna	
PASSERINE	Broadbill Flyctchr	367	Chsntrmp Hylacola	498	Strong-billed	582	674.	
PITTA	Leaden Flycatchr	365	Shy Hylacola	499	Brown-headed	583	Olive-backed	
	Satin Flyctchr	366	Redthroat	497	White-throated	579	Green Figbrd	
	Shining Flyctchr	372	Fieldwren	500	White-naped	578	671	
	Restless Flyctchr	369	Speckled Warbler	504	Black-headed	584	672	
LYREBIRD	Yellow-br Boatbill	368	Weebill	465	Green-backed	604	SPANGLED DRONGO	
	Blackface Monarch	373	Brown Warbler	454	Brown	597	673	
	Blackwing Monarch	374	Large-bill Warbler	457	White-streaked	627	BOWERBIRD	
	Spectacled Monarch	375	Dusky Warbler	461	Painted	598	Golden	
SCRUB-BIRD	White-ear Monarch	376	Mangrove Warbler	460	Crescent	630	Satin	
	Frilled Monarch	371	Western Warbler	463	New Holland	631	Aust Regentbird	
	Pied Monarch	370	Greenback Warbler	458	White-cheeked	632	Spotted	
LARK	Rufous Fantail	362	Fairy Warbler	456	White-fronted	594	Great	
	Grey Fantail	361	White-thr Warbler	453	Tawny-crowned	593	Fawn-breasted	
	Northern Fanteil	363	Mountain Thrnbill	474	Brown-backed	595	Toothbill Catbird	
	Willie Wagtail	364	Brown Thrnbill	475	Bar-breasted	596	Spotted Catbird	
SWALLOW	Spine-tl Chowchilla	434	Broad-tail Thrnbill	476	Rufous-banded	600	Green Catbird	
	North Chowchilla	435	Tasmanian Thrnbill	473	Rufous-throated	601	674	
	Eastern Whipbird	421	Chsntrmp Thrnbill	481	Grey	599	RIFLEBIRD	
	Western Whipbird	422	Slate-back Thrnbill	480	Eastern Spinebill	591	Paradise	
RICHARD'S PIPIT	Chirp Wedgebill	866	Western Thrnbill	472	Western Spinebill	592	Victoria's	
CUCKOO-SHRIKE	Chime Wedgebill	865	Buffrump Thrnbill	484	Banded	588	Magnificent	
	Spotted Quailth	436	Samphire Thrnbill	482	Black	589	Trumpet Manucode	
	Chestnut Quailth	437	Yellowrump Thrnbill	486	Pied	602	688	
	Cinnamon Quailth	439	Yellow Thrnbill	471	Dusky	590	MUD-NESTER	
	Nullarbor Quailth	440	Striated Thrnbill	470	Red-headed	587	Whitewing Chough	
	BABBLER		Southn Whiteface	466	Scarlet	586	Apostlebird	
	Grey-crowned	443	Chsnbrst Wlface	468	CHAT		675	
	White-browed	445	Banded Whiteface	469	Crimson	449	MAGPIE LARK	
	Hall's	938	VARIED SITTELLA	549	Orange	450	415	
	Chestnut-crowned	446	TREECREEPER		Yellow	451	WOODSWALLOW	
REDWHISK BULBUL	OLD-WLD WARBLER		Little	559	White-fronted	448	White-breasted	
THRUSH	Clam Reed Warbler	524	White-throated	558	Gibberbird	452	Masked	
	Tawny Grassbird	523	Red-browed	560	OLIVEBACK SUNBIRD	572	White-browed	
	Little Grassbird	522	White-browed	561	MISTLETOEBIRD	564	Black-faced	
	Spinifexbird	507	Brown	555	PARDALOTE		Dusky	
	Zitting Cisticola	969	Rufous	556	Spotted	565	Little	
ROBIN, WHISTLER	Gold-hd Cisticola	525	Black-tailed	562	Yellow-rumped	566	674	
	Rose Robin	384	HONEYEATER		Forty-spotted	571	CROW	
	Pink Robin	383	Red Wattlebrd	638	Red-browed	570	Australian Raven	
	Flame Robin	382	Yellow Wattlebrd	639	Striated	976	Forest Raven	
	Scarlet Robin	380	Little Wattlebrd	637	WHITE-EYE		Little Raven	
	Red-capped Robin	381	Spiny-cheeked	640	Pale	577	Little Crow	
	Hooded Robin	385	Striped	585	Yellow	576	Torresian Crow	
	Dusky Robin	386	Helmeted Friarbird	642	Silvereye	574	930	
		Rufous	509	Silver-cr Friarbird	644	FINCH		868
	Brown	508	Noisy Friarbird	645	Goldfinch	996	954	
	AUST-PAPUAN WREN		Little Friarbird	646	Greenfinch	997	691	
	Purple-crowned	542	Regent	603			692	
	Superb Blue	529	Blue-faced	641				
	Splendid	532						
	Blue-breasted	540						
	Variegated	536						
	Lovely	539						

THE ATLAS NEWS

If you have been active in the preceding 12 months, you will receive a quarterly newsletter

A sample shock : Some E. peroxys.



Name J. Gould
Address 99 Roseland Lane
Rockingham WH
Postcode L16 8 Phone 095 - 041041

Grid Reference	Lat. $35^{\circ} 25'$	S	Locality: Ulladulla	State: NSW
	Long. $150^{\circ} 25'$	E		
Block Size	$0^{\circ} 10'$		Map Used: WAC	1:1,000,000
Period of Observation			6A	Edn

卷之三

76 - Eastern Striated (red wing spot, narrow wing bar). Two birds seen in hole in dead tree often, were young flocks.

Providence Limerel - branch washed
027 - Unusual Record Report Form enc
357 - 5 eggs
424 - 2 Chrysalises

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Dr. David Peters
of Dawson Cover
-5 II

Class Office is
R A O O Head quarters
119, Dr. R.burgh St.
R. & W. Melbourne 305